ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING ANALYSIS AND RESULTS: FIELD ACTIVITY DATA STANDARD

Standard No.: EX000004.1

January 6, 2006

This data standard is produced by the Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC)

The Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) is a partnership among EPA, States and Tribal partners to develop and agree upon data standards for environmental information collection and exchange. More information about the EDSC is available at http://www.envdatastandards.net.

Foreword

The Environmental Data Standards Council identifies, prioritizes and pursues the creation of data standards for those areas where information exchange standards will provide the most value in achieving environmental results. The Council involves Tribes and Tribal Nations, state and federal agencies in the development of the standards and then provides the draft materials for general review. Business groups, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties may then provide input and comment for Council consideration and standard finalization. Draft and final standards are available at http://www.envdatastandards.net.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Sampling Analysis and Results (ESAR): Field Activity Data Standard provides a group of data elements that are used to exchange information about field activities. The field activity data standard provides information about the contacts, collection method, sample identification, collection date/time, depth/altitude, observation notes, sample characteristics, batch and shipping activities. Whenever a reference is made to "Field Activity", the "Monitoring Location" and if applicable "Project" identification must be specified to distinguish the project and monitoring location that apply to the field activity.

1.1 Scope

This standard specifies data groupings that may be used to describe field activity information such as sample collection.

1.2 Revision History

Date	Version	Description
January 6, 2006	EX000004.1	Initial Environmental Data Standards Council Adoption

1.3 References to Other Data Standards

This standard relies on other standards to make it complete and provide the necessary support. As such users should consider the references to other data standards noted below as integral to the ESAR: Field Activity Data Standard. These include:

- Contact Information [EX000019.2] Data Standard
- Facility Site Identification [EX000020.2] Data Standard
- Attached Binary Object EX000006.1] Data Standard
- Equipment [EX000009.1] Data Standard
- Measure [EX000010.1] Data Standard
- Method [EX000011.1] Data Standard
- Sample Handling [EX000014.1] Data Standard
- Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard

1.4 Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Field Activity	Field monitoring activities, including the collection of a physical sample, measurement, and/or observation where one or more of the results will be described or quantified.

1.5 Implementation

Users are encouraged to use the XML registry housed on the Exchange Network Web site to download schema components for the construction of XML schema flows (http://www.exchangenetwork.net).

1.6 Document Structure

The structure of this document is briefly described below:

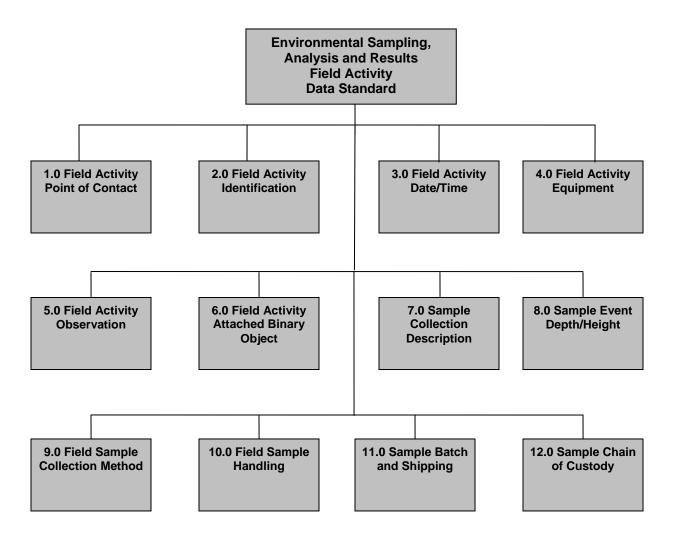
- a. Section 2.0 ESAR: Field Activity Diagram illustrates the principal data groupings contained within this standard.
- b. Section 3.0 ESAR: Field Activity Data Standard Table provides information on the high level, intermediate and elemental field activity data groupings. Where applicable, for each level of this data standard a definition, XML tag, note(s), example list of values and format are provided. The format column lists the required number of characters for the associated data element, where "A" specifies alphanumeric, "N" designates numeric, "G" is used for grouping and "D" for time and date elements.
- c. Data Element Numbering: For purposes of clarity and to enhance understanding of data standard hierarchy and relationships, each data group is numerically classified from the primary to the elemental level.
- d. Code and Identifier Metadata: Metadata, are defined here as data about data or data elements, that includes their descriptions and/or any needed context setting information required to identify the origin, conditions of use, interpretation, or understanding the information being exchanged or transferred. (Adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-17:1999 Information Technology Vocabulary—Part 17: Databases 17.06.05 metadata). Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier or a code. A note regarding this additional metadata is included in the notes column for identifier and code elements. Additional metadata for identifiers may include:
 - Code List Identifier, which is a standardized reference to the context or source of the set of codes

Additional metadata for codes may include:

- Code List Identifier, which is a standardized reference to the context or source of the set of codes
- Code List Version Identifier, which identifies the particular version of the set of codes.
- Code List Version Agency Identifier, which identifies the agency responsible for maintaining the set of codes
- Code List Name, which describes the corresponding name for which the code represents
- e. Appendix A, ESAR: Field Activity Data Standard Structure Diagram illustrates the hierarchical classification of the field activity data standard. This diagram enables business and technical users of this standard to quickly understand its general content and complexity. Appendix B, lists the references for the ESAR Field Activity Document.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING, ANALYSIS AND RESULTS: FIELD ACTIVITY DIAGRAM

This diagram specifies the major data groups for the ESAR: Field Activity Data Standard.



3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING, ANALYSIS AND RESULTS: FIELD ACTIVITY DATA STANDARD TABLE

1.0 Field Activity Point of Contact

Definition: Identifies the organization or person where questions about the field activities including sample collection, continuous

monitoring, field measurements and/or observations may be directed.

Relationship: None.

Notes: Refer to the **Contact Information [EX000019.2] Data Standard.**

The following items may be needed:

Individual Full Name

Organization Formal Name

Affiliation Type Mailing Address

Supplemental Address Text Mailing Address City Name Mailing Address State Name Mailing Address State Code Mailing Address Country Name Mailing Address Country Code

Mailing Address Zip Code/International Postal Code

Telephone Number

Telephone Number Type Name

Electronic Address Text

Electronic Address Type Name

XML Tag: FieldActivityPointoContact

2.0 Field Activity Identification

Definition: The designators that uniquely identify a field activity at a monitoring location within a project.

Relationship: None.

Notes: If all field activities are activities that result in samples, the elements in this section could be referred to as Sample

Identification (e.g. Sample Identifier, Sample Type) instead of Field Activity Identification.

Note: Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier. This

additional metadata is described in the Introduction section 1.6.d.

XML Tag: FieldActivityIdentification

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
2.1 Field Activity Identifier	A designator used to uniquely identify a field activity within a context.	Note: Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier. This additional metadata is described in the Introduction section 1.6.d.	А	FieldActivityIdentif ier
2.2 Field Activity Type	The text describing the type of field activity being performed.	Refer to the Compositing [EX000008.1] Data Standard for these additional data elements. Example List of Values:	А	FieldActivityType
		 Field Measurement/ Observation- Routine Measurement/ Observation 		
		Sample-Routine Sample		
		Sample-Field Replicate		
		Sample-Positive Control		
		Sample-Confirmation		
		 Sample-Continuous Monitoring Routine Sample 		
		Quality Control Sample- Equipment Blank		
		 Quality Control Sample-Field Spike 		
		 Quality Control Sample- Reference Sample 		
		Quality Control Sample-Co- located		
		Note: For field activities that involve compositing performed in the field, additional data tracking may be required to fully capture the field composite activities and composite components.		

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3.0 Field Activity Date/Time Details

Definition: The date and time relating to a field activity, such as sample collection.

Relationship: None.

Notes: The **Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard** will apply anytime a date is reported.

XML Tag: FieldActivityDateTimeDetails

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
3.1 Field Activity Start Date	The starting date that a field activity was started.	The Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard will apply anytime a date is reported.	D	FieldActivityStart Date
3.2 Field Activity Start Time	The starting time that a field activity was started.	The Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard will apply anytime a time is reported.	D	FieldActivityStartT ime
3.3 Field Activity End Date	The ending date that a field activity was finished.	The Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard will apply anytime a date is reported.	D	FieldActivityEndD ate
3.4 Field Activity End Time	The ending time that a field activity was finished.	The Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard will apply anytime a date is reported.	D	FieldActivityEndTi me

4.0 Field Activity Equipment

Definition: Identifies equipment or instruments used to perform a field activity (such as sampling) and associated calibration

information.

Relationship: None.

Notes: This may be a repeating data grouping. Refer to the **Equipment [EX000009.1] Data Standard**.

The following items may be needed:

Equipment Identifier Equipment Name Equipment Description Equipment Type

Equipment Characteristics Equipment Calibration

XML Tag: FieldActivityEquipment

5.0 Field Activity Observation

Definition: Observations or deviations about the events associated with a field activity.

Relationship: None.

Notes: This may be a repeating data grouping.

XML Tag: FieldActivityObservation

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
5.1 Field Activity Observation Text	Recorded observations or deviations about the events associated with a field activity.	 Example List of Values: Weather: Hot and Humid Many Ducks Near Swimming Area No Conductivity Readings After 2 PM- Meter Failed 	A	FieldActivityObser vationText
5.2 Field Activity Observation Qualifier Type	A type or classification of event causing a deviation from an expected observation.	Example List of Values: Null Natural Event Anthropogenic Event	A	FieldActivityObser vationQualifierTyp e
5.3 Field Activity Observation Qualifier Value	The reason for a deviation from an expected observation.	 Example List of Values: Vandalism Removed for Calibration Storm Damage Wildfire Stratospheric Ozone Intrusion Water Level Fell Below Probe 	A	FieldActivityObser vationQualifierVal ue

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
5.4 Field Activity Observation Qualifier Concurrence Authority Text	The authority that has concurred with an observation qualifier.	Example List of Values:US EPAWind River Environmental Quality Commission	Α	FieldActivityObser vationQualifierCo ncurrenceAuthorit yText
5.5 Field Activity Observation Qualifier Concurrence Indicator	An indicator denoting concurrence or non-concurrence on the observation qualifier.	List of Permitted Values: • Y – yes • N – no	А	FieldActivityObser vationQualifierCo ncurrenceIndicato r

6.0 Field Activity Attached Binary Object

Definition: Reference documents, images, photos, GIS data layers, laboratory materials and other electronic objects attached within

the data exchange, as well as information used to describe those objects that pertain to a field activity (such as sampling).

Relationship: None.

Notes: Refer to the Attached Binary Object [EX000006.1] Data Standard.

Multiple objects may be attached to data submission for each project included in the submission. Where a binary object is attached, both the type code and the title of the file must be provided. Attached Binary Object descriptors will adhere to

the specified technical standards.

XML Tag: FieldActivityAttachedBinaryObject

7.0 Sample Collection Description

Definition: The information that further describes field activities that pertain to the collection of a sample from a station within a

project.

Relationship: None. Notes: None.

XML Tag: SampleCollectionDescription

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
7.1 Sample Identifier	A designator used to uniquely identify a sample within a context.	Note: Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier. This additional metadata is described in section 1.6.d of the Introduction to this standard.	A	SampleIdentifier

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
7.2 Sample Compliance Indicator	An indicator that denotes whether the sample being collected is intended to be used for compliance.	List of Permitted Values: • Y – yes • N – no	A	SampleComplian ceIndicator
7.3 Sample QC Indicator	An indicator that denotes whether the sample being collected is intended to be used for the purpose of quality control (QC).	List of Permitted Values: • Y – yes • N – no	A	SampleQCIndicat or
7.4 Sample Media Name	Name or code indicating the environmental medium where the sample was taken.	 Example List of Values: Air Aqueous Biological Tissue Biota Non-aqueous Pesticide Solid 	А	SampleMediaNa me
7.5 Sample Media Sub- division Name	Name or code indicating the environmental matrix as a subdivision of the sample media.	Example List of Values:	A	SampleMediaSub divisionName

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
7.5 Sample Media Sub-		Edible Flesh	Α	
division Name (cont.)		Riffle Biota		
		Benthic Macroinvertebrate		
		Leachate		
		Process Waste		
		Sediment		
		Sludge		
7.6 Sample Description Text	The description indicating the characteristic of the sample.	Example List of Values:	Α	SampleDescriptio
		Two-phase sample; analyze non- aqueous phase		nText
		Sample was effervescent		
		Sample was dropped, possible contamination		
7.7 Sample Amount	The volume or weight of material present in the sample.	Refer to the Measure [EX000010.1] Data Standard.	А	SampleAmount
		The following items are needed:		
		Measure Value Measure Unit Code Measure Qualifier Code Measure QA/QC		

8.0 Sample Event Depth/Height

Definition: The information about the measurement of the vertical location where the sample was collected at the monitoring location.

This is to be distinguished from the vertical location of the monitoring station itself.

Relationship: None.

Notes: This information would be used to describe samples collected at a point or range above or below the monitoring location,

e.g., core samples, depth-integrated samples, multiple samples taken from varying depth/height at a given monitoring

location.

XML Tag: SampleEventDepthHeight

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
8.1 Sample Event Depth/Height Measure	The numerical measure of the vertical location of sample collection.	This may include such values as: well depth; water level; height of a receiver, probe, transmitter, obstruction; maximum height; minimum height.	G	SampleEventDep thHeightMeasure
		This is a linear measure off the latitude/longitude elevation measure. Depth is referred to as negative and altitude as positive.		
		Refer to the Measure [EX000010.1] Data Standard.		
		The following items are needed:		
		Measure Value Measure Unit Code Measure Qualifier Code Measure QA/QC		
8.2 Sample Event Top Depth/Height Measure	The top of the range where the sample is collected; e.g. top of the	Refer to the Measure [EX000010.1] Data Standard.	G	SampleEventTop DepthHeightMeas
	well screen, or top of the core	The following items are needed:		ure
	sample.	Measure Value Measure Unit Code Measure Qualifier Code Measure QA/QC		
8.3 Sample Event Bottom Depth/Height Measure	The bottom of the range where the sample is collected; e.g. bottom of	Refer to the Measure [EX000010.1] Data Standard.	G	SampleEventBott omDepthHeightM
	the well screen, or bottom of the core sample.	The following items are needed:		easure
	τοιε σαπριε.	Measure Value Measure Unit Code Measure Qualifier Code Measure QA/QC		

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
8.4 Sample Event Depth/Altitude Reference Point Text	The reference used to indicate the datum or reference used to establish the depth/altitude of collection.	 Example List of Values: Mean sea level Mean lower low water Ground level Surface of water Surface of lake bottom 	A	SampleEventDep thAltitudeReferen cePointText

9.0 Field Sample Collection Method

Definition: Identifies sample collection or measurement method procedures.

Relationship: None.

Notes: Reference the **Method [EX000011.1] Data Standard**.

The following items are needed:

Method Identifier

Method Identifier Context

Method Name

Method Qualifier Type

Method Qualifier

Method Description Text

Method Type Method Deviations

Method Reference

XML Tag: FieldSampleCollectionMethod

10.0 Field Sample Handling

Definition: The information that further describes field activities that pertain to the collection of a sample from a station within a

project.

Relationship: None. Notes: None.

XML Tag: FieldSampleHandling

10.1 Sample Container

Definition: Data elements that describe how samples are prepared and treated in the field.

Relationship: None. Notes: None.

XML Tag: SampleContainer

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
10.1.1 Sample Container Type Name	The text describing the sample container type.	 Example List of Values: Cubitainer Glass Jar Polyethylene Bottle Resealable Plastic Bag 40 mL VOA Vial with Teflon Lined Cap 47 mm Teflon Filter 8 x 10 Inch Quartz Fiber Filter SUMMA Canister 	A	SampleContainer TypeName
10.1.2 Sample Container Color Name	The text describing the sample container color.	Example List of Values:	А	SampleContainer ColorName
10.1.3 Sample Container Volume Text	The text describing the sample container volume.	Example List of Values: • 500 mL • 1 Gallon • 1 L	А	SampleContainer VolumeText

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
10.1.4 Sample Container Identifier	A designator used to uniquely identify a sample container to distinguish between multiple aliquots taken for the same sample.	Note: Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier. This additional metadata is described in section 1.6.d of the Introduction to this standard.	A	SampleContainerl dentifier

10.2 Field Sample Handling Method

Definition: Information describing sample handling procedures (including sample treatment or sample preservation) performed in the

field.

Relationship: None.

Notes: Reference the Sample Handling [EX000014.1] Data Standard.

The following items are needed:

Sample Handling Type
Sample Handling Method
Sample Handling Amount
Sample Handling Start Date
Sample Handling Start Time
Sample Handling End Date
Sample Handling End Time
Sample Handling Comments
Chemical Preservative Used
Thermal Preservative Used

XML Tag: FieldSampleHandlingMethod

11.0 Sample Batch and Shipping

Definition: Data elements that identify sample grouping and shipping information.

Relationship: None. Notes: None.

XML Tag: SampleBatchShipping

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
11.1 Sample Batch Identifier	A designator used to uniquely identify a grouping of samples.	Note: Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier. This additional metadata is described in section 1.6.d of the Introduction to this standard.	А	SampleBatchIden tifier
11.2 Sample Batch Type	The rationale for grouping the samples together as a batch.	 Sampling Batch—a group of samples that were collected together. Shipping Batch— a group of samples that were shipped together, such as in the same crate, cooler or ice chest. Equipment Batch—a group of samples collected using the same equipment in a defined period of time. 	А	SampleBatchTyp e
11.3 Shipping Batch Identifier	A designator assigned by the sampler used to uniquely identify a batch of samples shipped together.	This may be a sample delivery group. Note: Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier. This additional metadata is described in section 1.6.d of the Introduction to this standard.	А	ShippingBatchIde ntifier
11.4 Number of Shipping Containers Sent Numeric	The quantity of shipping containers shipped in a batch.	Example List of Values: • 4 • 1	N	NumberShipping ContainersSentN umeric
11.5 Shipping Container Type Name	The type of container used to ship the batch to the lab.	Example List of Values: Ice Cooler Paint Can Cardboard Container	A	ShippingContaine rTypeName

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
11.6 Shipping Method	The shipping mode used to transfer sample containers to the laboratory.	 Example List of Values: Delivered to lab by field crew Picked up by the lab staff Overnight FEDEX Second day UPS 	A	ShippingMethodT ype
11.7 Sample Sent to Laboratory Date	The calendar date when the sample was sent to the laboratory	The Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard will apply anytime a date is reported.	D	SampleSentLabor atoryDate
11.8 Sample Sent to Laboratory Time	The time when the sample was sent to the laboratory.	The Representation of Date and Time [EX000013.1] Data Standard will apply anytime a date is reported.	D	SampleSentLabor atoryTime

12.0 Sample Chain of Custody

Definition: The information describing the unbroken trail of accountability that verifies the physical security of samples, data, and

records.

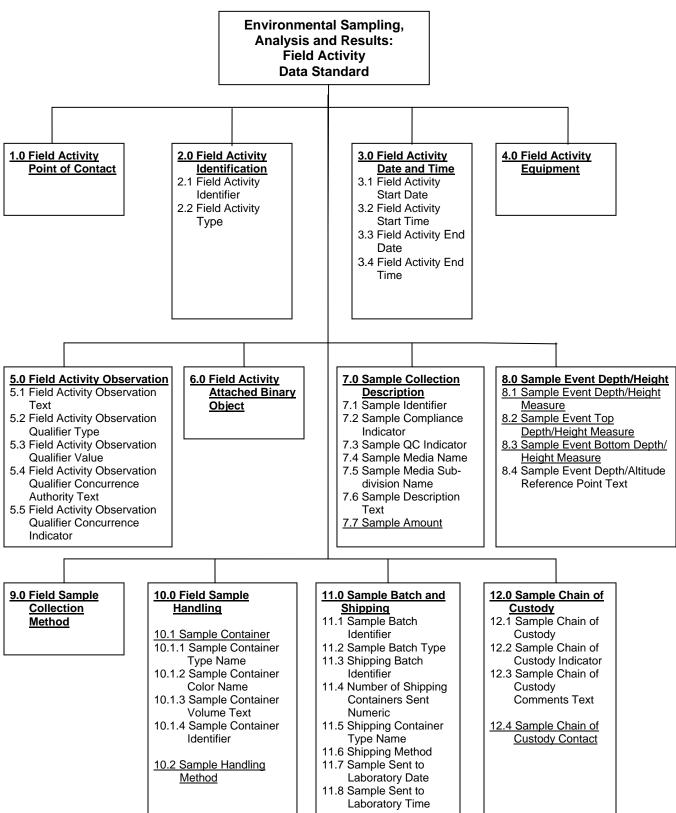
Relationship: None. Notes: None.

XML Tag: SampleChainofCustody

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
12.1 Sample Chain of Custody Identifier	A designator used to uniquely identify the chain of custody.	Example List of Values: • 6-10046 • T095 1616 839 • RA 985 807 426 US Note: Based on the business need, additional metadata may be required to sufficiently describe an identifier. This additional metadata is described in section 1.6.d of the Introduction to this standard.	A	SampleChainofC ustodyldentifier
12.2 Sample Chain of Custody Indicator	A "Yes/No" indicator that a chain of custody procedure was followed.	List of Permitted Values:Y – yesN – no	А	SampleChainofC ustodyIndicator
12.3 Sample Chain of Custody Comments Text	A description of important activities documented in the chain of custody.	No seals on container Custody requirements met	A	SampleChainofC ustodyText

Data Element Name	Data Element Definitions	Notes	Format	XML Tags
12.4 Sample Chain of Custody Contact	The information naming and locating the organization or individual to contact about the chain of custody.	If Sample Chain of Custody Flag was yes, this applies. Refer to the Contact Information [EX000019.2] Data Standard.	G	SampleChainofC ustodyContact
		The following items may be needed:		
		Individual Full Name Organization Formal Name Affiliation Type Mailing address Supplemental Address Text Mailing Address City Name Mailing Address State Name Mailing Address State Code Mailing Address Country Name Mailing Address Country Code Mailing Address Country Code Mailing Address Zip Code/International Postal Code Telephone Number Telephone Number Type Name Electronic Address Text Electronic Address Type Name		

Appendix A Environmental Sampling, Analysis and Results: Field Activity Structure Diagram



Appendix B References

i. ISO/IEC 2382-17:1999 Information Technology Vocabulary—Part 17: Databases 17.06.